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and [ ] buildings marked by signboards of various Communist organizations were deserted, and activities were suspended.

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5. As air raids became more frequent and intense [ ] air raid sirens were not used in Seoul. [ ] there were no trenches or fortifications in the Seoul area. There was a rumor [ ] that the Han River would not freeze if the UN troops poured a certain (unidentified) substance in it; there was also a rumor that the Chinese Communists attempted to build a pontoon bridge across the Han, using empty gas drums, but failed because of the ice.

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6. The Chinese Communists had little contact with citizens of Seoul [ ] It was rumored that the Chinese Communists were raping and murdering in Seoul, and seizing children for shipment north.\* A high percentage of Chinese residents remained, in the city, and gave an enthusiastic welcome to the Chinese Communist invaders. The organized nature of the cooperation of local Chinese made it apparent that they had had previous contacts and had made arrangements with the Chinese Communist forces.

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7. Approximately 30 percent of the building begun when the UN forces left Seoul has been destroyed by bombing. Trading began at the East and South Gate markets [ ] but [ ] the areas were deserted, because of air raids and conscription. [ ] one small mal of rice cost 13,500 ROK won. Wood fuel was practically unobtainable and if found, the price was 10 times above [ ] prices.

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8. [ ] Seoul citizens were suffering from malnutrition and cold, resulting in a few deaths. There was no epidemic of infectious disease in the city.

\* [ ] Comment. No incidents of this type were actually observed.

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